

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 OMB-01

SCI-06 SCEM-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NEA-10 EA-11 DRC-01 /138 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5551

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D N T I A L PARIS 32338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY ACTION GROUP

MADRID FOR SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL, "UNOFFICIAL" REACTION OF SENIOR QUAI
OFFICIAL IS THAT ENERGY ACTION GROUP (EAG) PROPOSAL IS PROBABLY
INCOMPATIBLE WITH COPENHAGEN SUMMIT APPROACH TO ENERGY
PROBLEM. PRELIMINARY FRENCH VIEWS ARE CONSISTENT WITH GOF
DESIRE TO KEEP COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES INDEPENDENT OF US,
ESPECIALLY SINCE FRENCH FORESEE CONTINUED DIFFICULT TIMES
AHEAD FOR US IN GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IN RELATIONS WITH
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ARABS GENERALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR ARNAUD TOLD US EVENING DECEMBER 18 THAT QUAI OFFICIALS ARE STILL STUDYING SECRETARY'S PILGRIMS ADDRESS AND ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO GIVE US A CONSIDERED FRENCH REACTION TO THE EAG PROPOSAL. FURTHER, ARNAUD ASSUMED PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WOULD GIVE HIS REACTIONS DURING MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY ON DECEMBER 20.

3. ARNAUD THEN GAVE US SOME "PERSONAL AND PRELIMINARY" OBSERVATIONS ON RELATIONSHIP OF SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO ENERGY ANNEX F COPENHAGEN SUMMIT STATEMENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT SIMILAR MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, AS WELL AS CRITICAL IMMEDIATE ENERGY NEEDS, HAVE PROMPTED BOTH THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AND THE COMMUNITY'S PLAN, ARNAUD THOUGHT THE TWO APPROACHES WERE PROBABLY NOT COMPATIBLE. FROM FRENCH STANDPOINT, ARNAUD FORESAW DIFFICULTIES WITH THE EAG. IDEA. FIRST, THE ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN GAVE THE PROPOSAL A TRILATERAL ASPECT, WHICH AS THE US KNOWS FROM DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES NEGOTIATION, IS OPPOSED BY FRANCE. SECOND, THE INCLUSION OF THE US, JAPAN, CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN A SINGLE GROUPING OF WEALTHY, CONSUMER NATIONS WOULD MAKE IT PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A "BALANCED" RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARAB PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS WAS THE ADVANTAGE, ARNAUD THOUGHT, OF THE COMMUNITY'S APPROACH SINCE THERE COULD BE MORE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC "EQUILIBRIUM" BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE ARAB STATES. FINALLY, ARNAUD SAID THE THRUST OF THE EAG PROPOSAL SEEMED TOO MUCH DIRECTED AT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF ASSURING PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR CONSUMER COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL ARTICULATED IN THE COPENHAGEN STATEMENT, SAID ARNAUD, THE COMMUNITY (ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH) IS ATTEMPTING TO APPROACH THE ARABS MORE "DEFTLY." FRENCH BELIEVE THAT THE MORE THEY FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF OIL SHORTAGE, THE MORE THE ARABS WILL RESIST EFFORTS TO RESUME FULL PRODUCTION. IN THE FRENCH VIEW, IT WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN TO SUBMERGE IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN BROADER POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT -- TO MAKE THE ARABS FEEL THERE IS MORE AT STAKE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH EUROPE THAN MERE OIL.

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4. COMMENT: ARNAUD DID NOT ADDRESS URANIUM ENRICHMENT PART OF PILGRIS SPEECH. HE EVIDENTLY MISSED SIGNIFICANCE OR CHOSE TO IGNORE BROADER AND FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS OF SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL. NEVERTHELESS, NEGATIVE REACTION TO TRILATERAL ASPECT WAS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF WELL-KNOWN GOV MISTRUST OF JOINT ENTERPRISES WHERE THEY BELIEVE COMMUNITY VIEWS RISK BEING SUBORDINATED TO PREDOMINANT US VOICE. FRENCH PROBABLY ALSO WISH TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN IN HOPES OF CONTRACTING

DIRECTLY WITH ARAB GOVERNMENTS FOR OIL SUPPLIES. THEY
MAY ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ENERGY COORDINATION WITH NON-EC
CONSUMER COUNTRIES TO OECD CONTEXT. FRENCH ALSO
BELIEVE THEY HAVE POLITICAL ASSETS IN CULTURAL LINKS
OF LANGUAGE AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WITH ARAB WORLD
WHICH WOULD BE DEVALUED IN JOINT APPROACH WITH JAPANESE
AND NORTH AMERICANS. IN SUM, WITH SCEPTICAL VIEW OF
MID-EAST PEACE CONFERENCE PROSPECTS, QUAI--SHORT OF
JOBERT--APPEARS TO BELIEVE THAT FRANCE'S CHANCES OF ASSURING
VITAL OIL SUPPLIES ARE BETTER IN BILATERAL AND COMMUNITY
RELATIONS WITH ARABS THAN IN BROADER APPROACH OF MAJOR CON-
SUMER COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, DEFINITIVE RESPONSE WILL
BE DECIDED BY PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND JOBERT, WHO CAN BE
EXPECTED TO WEIGH BROADER POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.
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